

BOARD OF DEACONS

Active Deacons 2023:

Although Deacons work as a committee of the whole, and every member participates in all areas, each member took on primary responsibility for a certain area.

Tina Calhoun – Congregation support	Sheryl Crankshaw – Special PC(USA) Offerings
Mary Jo Deans -- Snail Mail Sunshine	Judith Fiorentino – Treasurer, Interfaith Works
Eileen Edward – Secretary	David Geurtsen – Hospital visits
Hanna Kenney – Daily Bread mailing	Sarah Rogers – Easter Breakfast, Jubilee Shop
Patti Stephens -- Chair	Rev. Summer Sattora – ex officio

Since the pandemic seemed to be truly behind us, Deacons voted for the return of the Easter Pancake Breakfast for the first time since 2019. On April 19th, Sarah Rogers, with help from Bradberry cousins, nieces and nephews, served pancakes, bacon, juice, coffee and tea. Summer handled publicity.

During July coffee hours, Judy Fiorentino taught everyone, who was willing, how to make giant tissue paper flowers. These colorful creations surrounded Pooh Bear and friends on our float in the Can-Am Parade on July 15th. Summer found recruits to join her throwing candy as they walked beside the float. The float's theme was "Treat your Neighbor as Yourself." Our efforts earned second place.

We supported Halloweenville, organized by the Chamber of Commerce, with our mannequin scarecrow. Sheryl, Judy and friends filled her out with straw and dressed her for *Sowing Seeds of God's Love: Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace*.

Jubilee Shop 2023 was a great success! Eleven shoppers were given a 10% discount at Walmart on November 27th. They bought gifts for 18 children, plus two gifts that were later delivered to the Bernier & Carr Christmas toy drive. Parents came to the Parish Center to wrap and take home the gifts on the following Saturday.

Our December coffee hour project for the congregation was to sign and address Christmas cards for soldiers in our platoon.

Sheryl Crankshaw lined up Deacon speakers for each of the four special offerings. Both the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Christmas Joy are sent entirely to PC(USA). However, the other two offerings, each, have local components. Forty per cent of our Pentecost Offering was sent to East Hounsfield Library, which offers many activities for children. The local portion of our Peace Offering was donated to our area's Safe Schools Endeavor, to combat gun violence.

This year Interfaith Works has been settling many immigrant families in the Syracuse area. Judy's announcement of our renewed collection of household goods was met with quantities of items delivered to Fellowship Hall. Sheryl and Judy have been making multiple deliveries to the Interfaith warehouse in Syracuse.

Over the years the Jubilee Fund has accumulated more money than is needed for Christmas gifts. Deacons are making an effort to expand the scope of this fund, so that it aids children in Town of Hounsfield during the rest of the year. Our solicitation letter to donors describes this effort. From these funds, Deacons were able to help out families with critical needs purchases totaling \$1,309.96; we gave money to a family with a newborn who was diagnosed with leukemia; we purchased a locator-bracelet for a small child with a condition that causes her to wander and get lost; and we paid for one student to attend basketball camp. Deacons continue to search for ways to support children in our Town of Hounsfield.

Throughout the year Deacons have individually and as a group offered moral support and practical support for individual members facing challenges.